

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of manufacturing a part having at least one mechanically weakened area, said method including a step of producing a thermoplastics material part (10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70) and at least one cycle of steps comprising:

forming a localized opening through an area of said part which is of constant thickness,

heating said part locally by means of a heating probe (15, 32, 42, 52, 62, 72) so as to render said area of said part plastic, and

using a punch (15, 32, 42, 52, 62, 72) to modify the geometry of said area rendered plastic so as to delimit in said part a mechanically weakened area constituting a hole or hole precursor.

2. The method claimed in claim 1 wherein said area rendered plastic is formed so as to surround said opening.

3. The method claimed in claim 1 wherein said geometry of said area rendered plastic is modified to delimit said mechanically weakened area in the form of a blind hole (20, 34, 44, 54) whose bottom is constituted by a continuous web.

4. The method claimed in claim 1 wherein said geometry of said area rendered plastic is modified to delimit said mechanically weakened area in the form of a through-hole (64) bordered by a peripheral web (67) over part of its height.

5. The method claimed in claim 1 wherein said geometry of said area rendered plastic is modified to delimit said mechanically weakened area by a contour (74) formed of openings (71).

6. The method claimed in claim 5 wherein said

contour is formed of through-openings (71).

7. The method claimed in claim 1 wherein said thermoplastics material part is extruded (25).

8. The method claimed in claim 7 wherein said cycle of steps is executed as said product is extruded.

9. The method claimed in claim 1 wherein said cycle of steps is reiterated to produce a succession of hole precursors.

10. The method claimed in claim 1 wherein said part is heated locally by means of a probe (15, 32, 42, 52, 62, 72), part of which constitutes said punch for modifying said geometry of said area rendered plastic.

11. The method claimed in claim 1 wherein said heating probe (15, 32, 42, 52, 62, 72) is an ultrasound probe.

12. The method claimed in claim 1 wherein said punch (15, 32, 52, 62) has an end portion terminating in a plane transverse face.

13. The method claimed in claim 1 wherein said punch (42) has an end portion terminating in a transverse face incorporating at least one step.

14. The method claimed in claim 12 wherein said end portion has a cylindrical section.

15. The method claimed in claim 12 wherein said end portion has an oblong section.

16. The method claimed in claim 1 wherein said end portion has a decreasing section.

17. The method claimed in claim 1 wherein said punch has an end portion terminating in a transverse face bordered by axial teeth(73).

18. A plastics material section (10, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70) made by a method as claimed in claim 1 and including a longitudinal succession of mechanically weakened areas forming holes or hole precursors.

19. The section claimed in claim 18 wherein each

mechanically weakened area is in the form of a blind hole whose bottom is constituted by a continuous web.

20. The section claimed in claim 18 wherein each mechanically weakened area is in the form of a through-hole bordered by a peripheral web.

21. The section claimed in claim 18 wherein each mechanically weakened area is delimited by a contour formed by a succession of openings.

22. The section claimed in claim 18 wherein each mechanically weakened area is delimited by a contour (74) formed by through-openings (71).

23. The section claimed in any one of claims 18 to 22 wherein said weakened area has an oblong section

24. Electrical wiring trunking including a cover and a base portion forming part of a section as claimed in claim 18.